THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.PB.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) No high-level policy Committee was constituted in the Ministry of Agriculture on Micro-watershed programmes by the Narasimha Rao Government. However, a High Level Committee on Wastelands Development under the Chairmanship of Shri Mohan Dharia was constituted in November, 1994 and a Technical Committee on Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP) was constituted in April, 1993 under the Chairmanship of Prof. C.H. Hanumantha Rao in the Ministry of Rural Development.

Saving-cum-relief scheme for fishermen

3268. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government consider to propose any changes in the saving-cum-relief scheme of fishermen;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government consider to include the fisherwomen and Inland Fishermen within the purview of the scheme; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) The Saving-cum Relief component of the Centrally Sponsored National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen has been modified with effect from the financial year 2000-2001. The beneficiary contribution from marine fishermen has been enhanced from Rs. 45/- to Rs. 75/- per month. The contribution of the Central Government and State Government would now be Rs. 37.50 each per month as against Rs. 45/- each per month provided under the component earlier. The amount to be distributed to marine fishermen during the four months of monsoon/closed period would now be Rs. 300/- per month as against 270/- per month being distributed earlier.

(c) and (d) The scheme will cover Inland fishermen also from the current financial year. In the case of Inland fishermen, a contribution or Rs. 50/- per month for nine months in a year will be collected, and matched by an equal contribution from the Central Government and the State Government. The sum will be distributed in three monthly instalments of Rs. 300/- each during the monsoon/closed period.

A proposal to consider covering fisherwomen under the scheme is being examined in consultation with State Governments. A decision on the proposal will be taken thereafter.

Intensive Cotton Development Programme in Andhra Pradesh

3269. DR. DASARINARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are implementing Intensive Cotton Development Programme in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) funds allocated to the State under this programme during the last five years, year-wise; and

(d) facilities extended to the cotton growers of the State under the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A Centrally sponsored Scheme of Intensive Cotton Development Programme is being implemented in fifteen cotton growing States including the State of Andhra Pradesh for enhancing the production and productivity of cotton. Assistance is provided under the scheme to the State for the transfer of technology through field demonstration on crop production/Integrated Pest Management and training of farmers/extension workers. Besides, assistance is also provided for the supply of critical inputs such as certified seeds of varieties notified during the last fifteen years; water saving devices like sprinklers and drip irrigation; sprayers; pheromone traps, bio-agents as well as establishment of seed delinting and bio-pesticide units.

The funds allocated as Central Share to the State of Andhra Pradesh during the last five years, are as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Allocation
1995-96	173.40
1996-97	273.00
1997-98	275.46
1998-99	406.59
1999-2000	700.00